



Turning Leaves Uganda Christmas Report 2021

Warm greetings from Uganda!

As in many other parts of the world, Uganda has recorded thousands of people with the new omicron variant, with the majority appearing to be mild and manageable at home through self-isolation and the boosting of body immunity through eating the recommended diet of fruits and vegetables.

Brief Report about Uganda

Uganda has faced a number of problems mainly as a result of-increasing levels of poverty in communities because of fast changing climate patterns that have limited production of sufficient food. Uganda is largely agricultural, with the majority of its population working as subsistence farmers. Ugandan agriculture is dependent on rainfall irrigation in normal quantities. The last three years have been characterised by serious imbalances (both flooding and too much sunshine) affecting crop production. In Namabasa alone (this is our development area with the school land and demonstration farm) the total production of maize (corn) was only 40,000 kgs and that of beans was only 13,000 kgs. This was an accumulative average after collection of all the harvest in three seasons between June 2020 and August 2021. This cannot feed the population of about 17,000 people of Namabasa sufficiently for 12 months.

We felt that Turning Leaves had to do something urgently to help by purchasing food from some other regions such as Lango and Acholi in the deep north to help support the survival of the elderly people, children, people living with physical disabilities and single mothers with food. This support has seen great care for the underprivileged and we thank you very much for your generous kindness.

Christmas Food Aid

We were privileged to help over 200 families in Namabasa village with Christmas food support which we distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at the Demonstration Farm. Below are some of the highlights of what happened during this memorable event that was majorly very successful.



Serving Table 1 showing some of the beef procured. Standing at the back is Gimya, a volunteer in charge of the service table.



Tomatoes and onions measuring about 1 kg for each family.



Maggie and her daughter Abigail measuring and packaging rice at the shelter outside our office.

Two widows, Topista left aged 67 and Damuda centre aged 71 years, receiving packages of food from our volunteer Lucy at the demonstration farm. In the background are more beneficiaries lining up and waiting for their turn to arrive at the serving table.





Some of the children who arrived earlier, standing in a small group waiting for their Christmas sweets.



Some of the elderly mothers, standing together for a group photograph after receiving their Christmas gifts.



This photo is of a young man aged 28 with his wife Esther aged 23 and their baby aged 7 months. The young man is totally blind and we have been supporting him with food aid to keep him and his family alive in these hard times.



On the left is Mastitula aged 33 years, a single mother with 8 children, and on the right is Mzee (old man) Dan, aged 70, a widower with a heavy family burden of taking care of grandchildren.

Food Situation in Uganda

More food support will be required to keep people alive for the next few months before and during the next crop planting season, which is expected to start in March with the harvest probably in July. We are, therefore, grateful for all support received. We are spending 50,000/= (about £10) feeding a family with an average size of five people with the common foods of posho, beans, salt and cooking oil. This cost has moved up slightly because there is a shortage of food in Mbale. We must pay a lot to move food from the North of Uganda to the East through food vendors.

Sustainable Solution to Hunger Crisis

Turning Leaves is running a small demonstration farm in Namabasa consisting of animals such as cows, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, ducks and turkeys, as well as a banana garden, for the purpose of teaching the community how to create wealth and household income within half an acre of land. We produce organic manure out of the animal dung and distribute it to the community free of charge for improvement of their gardens, and we intend to support farmers with animals as startup capital for the establishment of their home farms. We are trying to breed from the few animals we have for this purpose. We also look forward to the introduction of quick maturing seeds for planting.

We would like to establish a food bank to store food for emergency situations such as these we are in now and we hope that when we implement all these wonderful plans, we shall greatly improve the living conditions of people in Namabasa, and surrounding areas.

We deeply appreciate your kind love and pray that God will bless you through 2022.

Joseph Ekure
December 2021